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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 20 | Humidity 39% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 58,338 | Nifty 17,475 | Gold 53,789 | Silver 66,465 | Dollar 76.14 | Euro 82.73 | GBP 99.48

Over 140 km of concrete roads with very few tree pits and negligible rainwater percolation points disastrous for Bengaluru's groundwater water table, activists tell BM

PIT WIPER

Groundwater table 1,000 ft down in areas like Halasuru

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Making space for tree pits on footpaths and construction of rainwater harvesting percolation points within chambers of stormwater drains were among essential components of the white-topping project while it was envisaged and approved by the government.

Subsequently, the project work was started by the BBMP.

Now, having completed over 75% of the first and second phases of the project, which is over 140 kilometres of concretised roads, activists alleged that the BBMP, citing feasibility issues, have neither made enough tree pits nor has taken care of the rainwater harvesting percolation points in the stormwater drains.

A few citizen activists who inspected the white-topping work in Wilson Garden told BM that they want the civic authorities to show them at least one rain water percolation point in the drains on either side throughout the entire stretch, 'because there isn't any'.

"Enough tree pits are not provided on footpaths. They (civic workers) had left spaces for the already existing trees or plants on footpaths,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

White-topping underway in the city

"For new trees or plants, we are not creating any pits. We are only leaving space for plants on footpaths that are wider, which would not affect walkway space.

— M Lokesh, chief engineer, projects

Space Jam

Traffic cops directing all vehicles to new designated parking space in KR Puram Market

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To reduce the traffic congestions at KR Puram Market and ensure free movement of vehicles, the KR Puram traffic police has been carrying out strict enforcement in the market area — restricting goods vehicles haphazardly parking in the area from midnight to early morning, which otherwise used to end up in a traffic menace further on.

The traffic police have deployed staff overnight to ensure that the vehicles are not parked throughout the night in the vicinity of the market. "Over 50-100 light goods vehicles would come and park along the main road in the night, to unload fruits and vegetables during the morning. Due to the parked vehicles, there used to be frequent traffic blocks for about a kilometre from the market. Even ambulances would get stuck in the ensuing traffic," said KR Puram traffic police inspector.

Now the cops have identified a parking space near KR Market and are directing all the vehicles to the space. "The officers deployed at night will ensure that the vehicles are moved to the newly designated parking space, so that the road is free for regular traffic movement," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art, for art's sake

On the occasion of World Art Day 2022, check out a special collection of artworks being showcased by 12 female artists at Gallery Time and Space.

This year, it is also a celebration of Azadika Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of independence and the 150th birth anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore. Honouring the movement of Independence, IAA has decided upon the theme of "Bande Bharat" for the commemoration of World Art Day 2022.

Where: Gallery Time and Space, Lavelle Road
When: April 15 – 16, multiple slots
Contact: 7760394808

02 All about soapstone

Do something different and spend a morning experiencing your senses while learning all about soapstone but also rope-making from plant fibre and age-old traditions. Soapstone is a soft stone that can be carved into anything we want. It was made into utensils, like pots, pans and plates back in the day and used for cooking over a fire. You get to learn the whole process of carving, sanding and oiling and see the magic reveal itself at the end.

Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb
When: April 14, 10am to 1pm
Register: 7899796871

03 Film Club

What are you watching these days? Is there a film that you have been amazed by recently or a movie that changed your life? Share it with like-minded people at this special meet-up.

Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: April 16, 4-5 pm
Register: 9886294444

Postcards from B'luru

A London-based lecturer attempts to analyse and document life depicted on postcards from early 20th century Bangalore

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The postcards depict life in minute details; inset from top: Emily Stevenson, Ganesh Shivaswamy

In an age of digitisation, the humble postcard lives to tell a tale of its own. Beyond capturing life as we know – or heard of – postcards offer a vast insight into social and urban history, geopolitical conditions, and photography of an era. In an attempt to remind us of the importance of this media, a London-based lecturer in Social Anthropology will discuss the stories behind many of these postcards that became one of the most common forms of communication in the early 20th century, opening up a business avenue for photographers at the time. In collaboration with the Ganesh Shivaswamy Foundation and hosted by Bangalore International Centre, Emily Stevenson will also talk about picture postcard production and consumption in early 20th century Bangalore.

Emily, a lecturer at St Andrews University, London, explains, "While today we might think of picture postcards as an outdated form of ephemera, in the early 20th century, their combination of a mass reproduced photographic image with a brief, personal message presented a highly innovative form of communication. They became a global phenomenon with billions being produced and consumed around the world in the early 1900s -- in some ways they were a kind of early 20th century social media."

According to her, in recent years, picture postcards have themselves been digitised, whether as part of collection catalogues, on social media, in the news etc., and these practices can often lead to new forms of meaning and use.

Having done her thesis on Picture Postcard Bengaluru: Visual and Material Pasts in India's Silicon Valley, Emily is no stranger to the garden city. Her fascination began when her conversations with people around picture postcards in Bengaluru were very much rooted to local stories.

"Termed as the 'IT Capital of India' combined with the prevalence of local history and heritage practice, and the city's complex colonial history that made it especially well-suited to anthropological research into how picture postcards are engaged with in the present."

The stories that emerge from one tiny rectangle transcend space and time, she explains. Unexpected insights emerge – whether that is finding that a photographic artist has painted a figure onto a hand-coloured version of a postcard who was not there in the original photograph; finding out about the identity of someone in a postcard image, or learning about the everyday lives of a postcard sender by looking at the postcard messages they wrote over multiple years, she says.

While picture postcards of India in the early 20th century were overwhelmingly consumed by a European audience, their production involved Indian and European photographers. "In Bengaluru, there were many different photographic studios producing countless picture postcards in the early 20th century. Some of the most prominent of these included S Mahadeo & Son (whose name was changed to GG Welling which many Bengalureans will know of, Wiele's Studio and The Picture House."

According to Ganesh Shivaswamy, a lawyer and connoisseur of art who is helming the event, the idea of collaborating came to him as he wanted to document the many changes Bengaluru has gone through over the years. "A simple life, the row of trees, the lakes beyond appear as fragile as the postcards themselves. On the other hand, I am intrigued by what is written behind these postcards. Many of them contained personal messages which were sent across the world. These were sent with no 'end-to end-encryption'." Ganesh adds that he is confounded by a society capable of fighting to protect privacy yet has not done much to protect heritage.

"It helped that Emily studied and analysed the postcards in my collection," he explains, adding that he wanted to share his experiences with the common man of Bengaluru and beyond.

The webinar, being held virtually, will begin on April 14, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, and registrations can be done on bangaloreinternationalcentre.org/

Activists shell-shocked over goat's castration

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The video was found to be recorded in Mysuru, and it went viral on social media

A city-based animal activist has filed a complaint with the Mysuru police after a video of a goat getting castrated in a crude and painful way by a group of men, went viral on Tuesday.

In the video, a man is seen holding the goat's forelimbs and another man, using a stone boulder, is repeatedly beating the animal's genitals, and a group of youth sitting around to watch.

The clip got the attention of animal activists who found the source of the video to be from Mysuru. When the activists confronted the group of men, they shrugged it off saying that it was a normal practice in their village and they would do the same to cattle kept for rearing.

The activists then approached the police and showed them the video, requesting them to file a case.

The station house officer (SHO) allegedly told the activists that such practices also took place when he was a child, and refused to file a case.

"The activists then headed to the Animal Husbandry Department and showed the video to the senior officials who directed the police to take legal action against the animal abusers," KB Harish, an animal activist, told Bangalore Mirror.

"It is obvious that such a crude painful practice still exists even in cities like Mysuru.

"The most painful part is that even after people are aware of such procedures being done free of cost and in a painless manner by the Animal Husbandry Department, they still choose to do it in a crude way as it was done by their forefathers," Harish added.

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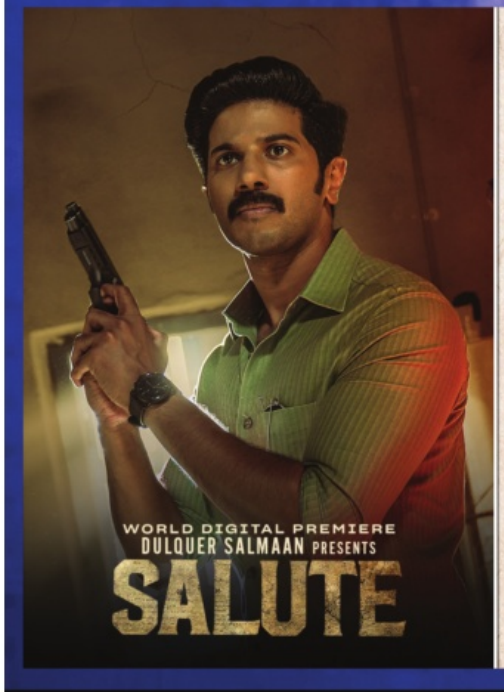

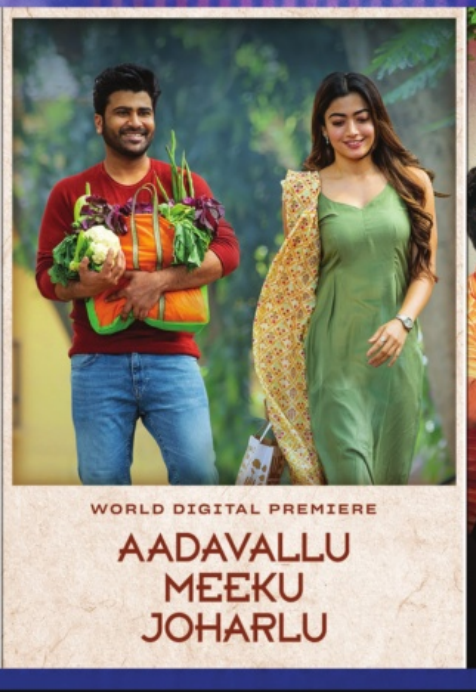

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Here comes the rain

City receives relief from scorching summer heat on Wednesday

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KAUSHIK JN

Sights of Koramangala drenched in rain

The clouds had been playing a game of hide and seek all morning on Wednesday until it finally rained. And the city breathed a sigh of relief as it received a break from the scorching summer heat. Many areas witnessing heavy rainfall for a while. G Srinivasa Reddy (Consultant at Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority) told BM, "There are multiple factors causing rainfall. There is weather circulation in Bay of Bengal along with a trough running from Maharashtra to Karnataka. Many areas in south-interior Karnataka have been receiving good rainfall. We were expecting rainfall in Bengaluru on Tuesday but it rained today. We expect rainfall on Thursday as well. Many areas in the south-interior parts of the state will continue receiving rainfall for a few more days." RR Nagar reported receiving 20 mm of rainfall while Gottigere received 10 mm, Uttarahalli received 15.5 mm and Pattabhiramanagar received 10 mm of rainfall until 4.30 pm).

A nowcast warning was issued for heavy winds. And it was reported that trees fell in Ramachandra Agrahara in JP Nagar (2nd Stage), Chamarajapet, Kasturba Road, the Indiranagar Defense Colony, Gangondahalli, near the BBMP head office, Ulsoor Lake, Wilson Garden, near Attiguppe Metro Station, Nagarabavi and Rimco Layout in RPC Layout.

Considering the rain forecast for the next few days, BBMP officials held a meeting to check the preparedness to tackle issues like fall of trees or water blockage on roads and junctions. BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said that failing to deal with complaints will attract consequences.

Considering the rain forecast for the next few days, BBMP officials held a meeting to check the preparedness to tackle issues like fall of trees or water blockage on roads and junctions

Addressing an emergency virtual meeting on Wednesday, he said that BBMP teams must reach places where trees or branches have fallen or rainwater is blocking roads immediately. He said officials must immediately resolve issues and facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

"All zonal control rooms must have the necessary equipment or machines along with the necessary personnel. Zone-wise senior officials must conduct meetings to address the prevailing rain-related issues. In case of heavy rain in the city, use revenue, health and solid waste management officials and marshals too, to solve the problem. Identify areas where water gets blocked and take steps to prevent it... Ensure smooth flow of water in all Rajakaluves in the city... This time there should be no bad incidents. Take precautionary measures," he said.

Hackathon to improve passenger experience at airport

Over 11,500 teams of software developers and data scientists of India participated in an event organised by Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) to unearth new innovations and solutions to improve end-to-end passenger experience at the airport. The operator of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) who organised the BIAL Genie Hackathon in collaboration with Microsoft in Bengaluru announced the winners on Wednesday.

Reboot Rebels won the event with their innovative application 'Fly Ezy' and were awarded Rs 1.5 lakh in cash. The four-member team suggested potential solutions to support passenger journey from commuting to the airport, internal navigation at the airport, facilitating access to shopping offers as well as alerts for passenger flights to enhance the overall passenger experience.

Over 11,500 teams of software developers and data scientists participated in BIAL's hackathon to improve passenger experience at the airport

Their plans included features like internal navigation which can be integrated into the airport map and shows dynamic movement on the map with real-time insights for passengers using the app. The application was designed to give passengers an easy, efficient, secure and memorable travel experience. Another useful feature was a blockchain wallet to reward passengers with coins to redeem later as discount coupons at stores in and around the airport.

Team Code Blooded won the runners up for their AI-based solution AIR DASH. Their plans included various usages of Azure services for AR-based easy navigation through Azure Maps, a personalised marketplace developed through Azure Machine Learning Studio, including smooth on-boarding for ecosystem partners. Code Blooded members won a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

The event was held between October 2021 and February 2022 to drive technology-led innovations through the development of an application using Azure. Out of 107 short-listed ideas, 29 prototypes were submitted with a final shortlist of seven for the finale. — BMB

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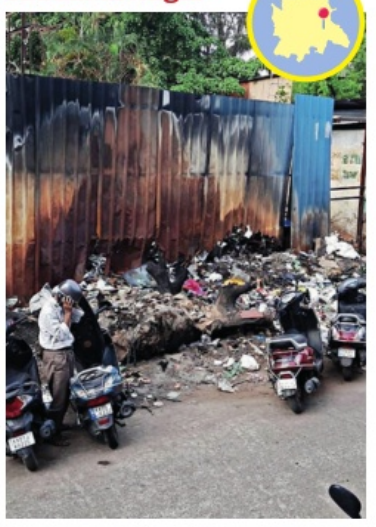
Drained by waste

NRI Layout

Folks have been dumping waste here and it is blocking drains now. BBMP must put a stop to the littering here.

Clean 'n clear

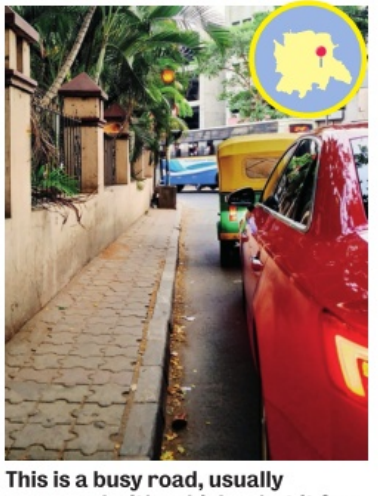
Sudhama Nagar



It has been three years since the garbage was cleared from this spot in Doddamavalli.

Where's the space?

Sampangi Rama Nagar



This is a busy road, usually crammed with vehicles, but it features a tiny pavement. BBMP must ensure that pedestrians have enough space to walk safely.

Taking stock of uniform

As more students start attending offline classes, schools struggle to meet rising demand for uniforms

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School managements say parents are hesitant to invest in uniforms as they feel covid uncertainty still lurks

Many schools have been sending notices to parents of students stating that uniforms, including shoes and socks, cannot be distributed owing to a shortage.

Till now, school students in Karnataka got a two-month holiday in April and May. However, as classes were held online during the first two years of covid pandemic, many schools are conducting full-fledged classes in April this year. It is mandatory for students to wear uniforms to schools. However, according to many schools, uniform distribution has been stalled as they are running out of stock.

A school principal said, "As students have started to come in offline mode, we are seeing a surge in demand for uniforms from parents. However, when we are enquiring in the market, the supply is not meeting the demand. Hence, we have decided to postpone the distribution for now." Parents said that they were not able to use the old uniforms distributed as the students have outgrown them.

However, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka general secretary D Shashi Kumar said, "The news of the possible fourth wave is now sending jitters to school managements. We have been asking parents to pay fees and collect uniforms. However, parents are stating that they have been hearing news of a possible fourth wave which could push back the offline classes to online mode. Hence, they want to wait before investing in uniforms."

Meanwhile, many schools are reporting good attendance for physical classes. A school principal said, "In grade two, we have 23 students in one section. A few months ago when physical classes were resumed, only around five students would attend the classes while the rest were continuing in online mode. Now, 18 students are attending physical classes while only five have opted for online classes. We feel that if there are no covid waves till June, school can resume full-fledged functioning."

Many schools are sending questionnaires to parents asking them to opt between online and physical classes. School managements state that this was essential for them as they need to prepare classes in hybrid mode. Schools are of an opinion that they don't want to continue online classes as it is better for students to attend classes physically.

Parents spend ₹43,000 a yr on child's education: Survey

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An Indian family spends Rs 16,000 annually on after-school education that includes expenses on tutors and coaching classes

School fee is becoming a hotly debated topic with many parents claiming that it is increasing their financial burden. According to a latest survey, city households spend on an average of Rs 43,000 per child per year. The survey states that families in Tier 1 cities spend on an average Rs 43,000 on their child's schooling, as compared to an average of Rs 29,000 annually in Tier four cities. Parents in India spend Rs 16,000 annually on after-school education.

According to Schoolnet, 7 per cent of families in Tier 1 cities spend under Rs 10,000 on their child's schooling, as compared to 18 per cent of parents in Tier 4 cities in the country. The data shows large gaps exist in education spending across the country, owing to factors such as expensive options for supplementary education, varying availability of resources, and levels of education of the parents. As we move from Tier 1 to Tier 4, the average money spent on education reduces, which influences the equitable access of education in the country. In tandem with school education, after-school education provides students with added academic advantages. At the same time, various factors such as tuition fees, laptops, textbooks and even subscriptions to online educational applications form important components of its accessibility and delivery. As per the study, on average, an Indian family spends Rs 16,000 annually on after-school education, including personal tutors, tuition classes, and coaching classes.

However, many parents say that many high-end schools are increasing the fees. "Many international schools charge fees above Rs 1 lakh per month. If we are spending close to Rs 12 lakh per year on one child, imagine the financial burden for those parents who have multiple children. We are speaking only about the fee while the miscellaneous cost would be at least half if not full of the fee structure," said Ramachandra Rao, a parent.

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Expressway to Chennai has hit the road running

Earth excavation work in full swing for 'shortest' route from Bengaluru

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The groundwork for the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway has begun near Hoskote. In the first phase, a 45-km stretch is being developed and gradually, work on the entire stretch will pick up pace. This correspondent did a test drive at ground zero.

Earth excavation work is being done on both sides on Old Madras Road (near MVJ Medical College); one road connects to Dobbaspet Road and the other segment is the Greenfield Road project; the stretch will connect Hoskote to Chennai. According to sources in National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), there was long delay in the project, but now the work is picking up pace as land acquisition has been completed in a few stretches.

National Highway Authority of India estimates that it may have to spend Rs 15 crore to Rs 16 crore to build a kilometre of the new Bengaluru-Chennai expressway

An official said that as work on Greenfield Road is a part of the six-lane highway on the stretch, they had to excavate the ground and level the road before the asphalt would begin. The NHAI is now executing the project on the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

The whole road project has been divided into 10 packages. Out of this, the 72-kilometre length of road falls under Karnataka territory and has been divided into three packages. Officials say that with the current pace of work, it may take at least two years for the road to be completed. However, the work is yet to start in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

This will be the first Greenfield expressway in south India, cutting across Hoskote, Malur (Karnataka), V Kota, Palamaner (Andhra Pradesh) and Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu). Incidentally, this will be the shortest distance between Bangalore and Chennai with distance reduced to 250 km (Greenfield area) from Hoskote to Sri Perambadur. The officer said initially they planned to reduce the distance further; however, it was not possible as the road was to pass the Eastern Ghats.

The officials feared it may not get the required clearance from the Ministry of Environment, so the road is now to bypass the Eastern Ghats. The project is set to have a world-class highway with roads designed to cater to the speed of 120 km per hour. The road embankment will be 3-6 metres above the ground to avoid distractions.

NHAI estimates that it may have to spend Rs 15 crore to Rs 16 crore to build a kilometre of the road. The toll on this road will be higher than the toll paid on the other NHAI roads. It is an access controlled expressway, the toll will be higher though we have not finalised the toll rates, Right now, the Bengaluru-Mulbagal Road's toll gate is located near Hoskote and Bangalore-Chennai expressway begins at this point. Users may not like to pay at two toll gates simultaneously.

So, we are considering connecting the expressway to NH 207 (between Hosur to Dobbaspet). It is still in the initial days and needs to be finalised.

Incidentally, the new expressway will be the shortest distance between Bengaluru and Chennai. Currently, there are three routes connecting Bengaluru and Chennai and the traffic volume between the two cities is higher. More than 9,500 PCUs travel from Bengaluru to Chennai on the existing roads every hour.

The most used road is through Hosur and Krishnagiri with approximately 380 km between the two cities. As this road has four lanes and passes through only two states, it is excessively used between the two cities. However, with many towns en route and a detour of Krishnagiri, the travel time is time consuming. The second route is the Old Madras Road traversing through Kolar and Chittoor. Though this route is comparatively shorter than Hosur Road (approximately 340 km), it is not so much preferred; one because it has two lanes and because it passes through three States.

> **"It may take at least two years for the project to be completed. The work is yet to be started in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** – NHAI official

Private vehicles desist using this road as they have to pay multiple entry taxes. The third route is a shorter route passing Kolar-KGF-V Kota and Vellore. This road is least preferred as it passes the ghat section (between V Kota and Pernambut) and the road is not in good condition.

It's cheaper to fly to Dubai than to Delhi

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With zero travel restrictions in place as covid cases are coming down, the Good Friday long weekend seems to be a good time for business for airlines as Bengalureans are making a beeline to travel to different parts of the country and the world. Surprisingly, flying to Dubai is proving to be cheaper than heading to Delhi, Srinagar and many other parts of India.

For the long weekend starting on Thursday, a non-stop flight from Bengaluru to Delhi is priced at around Rs 16,000 per ticket. Similarly, the average ticket cost from Bengaluru to Kolkata is Rs 11,000, Srinagar Rs 20,000, Goa Rs 12,000, Hyderabad Rs 5,500, Chennai Rs 4,500 and Kochi Rs 9,900. On the other hand, a Dubai flight ticket from Bengaluru starts at Rs 13,000. Dileep R, a travel operator, said: "People are scared to book flights in advance as covid has made things very unpredictable. With many airlines offering non-refundable tickets, people think twice before buying tickets in advance. Domestic travel is still more preferable."

Sanjay R, a businessman said, "It is known that the flights follow dynamic pricing and last minute tickets are always expensive. Yet, this year's long weekend is proving to be more expensive than thought earlier."

Meanwhile, KSRTC has decided to deploy all its premium buses to service, most of which were not operational due to low occupancy for the last two years due to covid pandemic. More than 200 vehicles would be deployed by the division to various destinations. Additional operational bus services – Rajahamsa and non-AC sleeper vehicles will be operated from the BMTC central office at Shantinagar bus stand, while AC sleeper vehicles will be operated from the service road in front of Depot-4 KSRTC, Shantinagar from Wednesday. This is the first time since the last three years that the entire premium fleet available with the Bangalore Central Division will be operated with all seats booked under advance reservation.

Pitfalls in concrete

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but they have not made any space for new trees or plants to come up even at spots where footpaths are much wider for a regular walkway," said activist Arun Prasad.

He told BM that BBMP which had taken nearly three years to complete white-topping of seven roads during pre-covid times managed to complete white-topping of roads more than 100-km in a matter of two years during pandemic restrictions.

During these civil works in a haste, they had conveniently skipped incorporating tree/plant pits and rainwater harvest percolation pits for reasons best known to them, according to Prasad.

"We were of the view that the tree pits and percolation pits will come up as the project work at a particular area comes to an end, but these were nowhere to be seen even after the work wrapped up," said an activist.

When activists questioned the civic body, senior BBMP officials in-charge of the project, said it was indeed making tree pits for the existing trees on footpath, also making sure that percolation pits are constructed within the chambers of the drain within specific intervals.

However, certain places where feasibility issues were rampant do not have enough tree pits or percolation points, activists said, quoting the officials.

"There are many tree pits and percolation points in Jayanagar on the 24th Main Road — starting from the Cool Joint towards Raghavendra Mutt — percolation points are in public view," said an official in-charge of the project.

However, activists noted these tree pits were there for already existing plants and trees on the footpaths and those were planted and maintained by residents living alongside the road; the BBMP has not designed a single new tree pit or planted anything according to their work plan.

"The BBMP constructing more than 100 km of concrete roads with considerably few tree pits and negligible rainwater percolation points, would certainly prove disastrous for the groundwater table as it would not get recharged like earlier, prior to concretisation.

Bengalureans, at present, are digging more than 1,000 feet down in areas like Halasuru and surroundings for bore wells to draw water. The groundwater table in Bengaluru Urban district has been already tagged as over-exploited with little to poor recharge; on top of this, projects like these are not helping groundwater recharge is only going to harm people in the future," they pointed out.

However, M Lokesh, chief engineer, projects, told BM that tree pits are always being maintained and the civic body has instructed not to cover any tree pits.

"However, for the new trees or plants, we are not creating any pits. We are only leaving space for plants on footpaths that are wider and which would not affect the walkway space. For the rain water harvesting, wherever the chambers are there in storm water drains, we are putting up groundwater recharging points called percolation pits inside them. Every chamber at a 30-metre interval has a percolation pit beneath it," Lokesh said.

Marketing tactics at KR Puram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, police have also asked the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to carry out removal of encroachments at the market.

"Many vendors tend to come up to the roads and put up the carts; this causes hindrance to traffic movement. Hence we would soon carry out a drive along with the BBMP and shift them elsewhere," said an official.

KR Market skywalk has been flooded with vendors. Though the BBMP had evacuated the vendors, in two days time they were back on the skywalk again, selling various merchandise.

Balaji Raghotham, resident of KR Puram said, "People do not use the skywalk as the vendors have occupied a huge space. They have dirtied the place beyond recognition, leaving the skywalk in an unhygienic condition. BBMP has to ensure strict enforcement is carried out, and vendors do not occupy the space again. The skywalk should be cleaned up too."

According to Raghotham, traffic police have been struggling as there is a conflict everyday between street vendors and the police: "There is no fencing for the market. If the market is fenced, it would ensure free flow of traffic and vendors can't come to the roads. Everyday from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, there is traffic congestion along the stretch."

Infosys says it won't work with Russian clients

Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said on Wednesday that the company won't work with any Russian clients.

"We work with no Russian clients and the work we do is with a small number of global clients in Russia, and we have started transitioning," Parekh stated.

"We have no impact on our business from an Infosys perspective given what is going on. We are providing reskilling for individuals that are displaced and see as they move to other locations in Eastern Europe.

"Given what is going on in the region, we have started to transition all our work from our centres in Russia to our centres outside Russia. We have less than 100 employees in Russia," he added. **IANS**

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Murder accused attempts suicide at court

A 34-year-old murder accused sustained severe injuries after he jumped from the fiftth floor of the City Civil Court complex while being escorted by the City Armed Reserve police on Wednesday. Jithin was rushed to Hosmat Hospital and is said to be in a critical condition.

According to the police, Jithin was arrested by the Hulimavu police in March 2020 for killing his five-year-old daughter and two-year-old son over a domestic row with his wife. The accused was in judicial custody at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison since then.

On Wednesday, a team of CAR police escorted him to appear for a hearing on the fifth floor of the City Civil Court complex. While returning from the court hall and walking down the ramp, Jithin pushed the CAR constables escorting him, climbed down the parapet wall and jumped.

The Halasurugate police have registered a case of attempt to suicide.

Retd armyman murdered

A 56-year-old retired armyman was bludgeoned to death at his house in Halasuru over a suspected property dispute on Wednesday.

The deceased Jude Suresh, a divorcee has been living alone at his house in Goutham colony after the death of his mother three years ago.

According to the police the house was in the name of Suresh's mother and his other siblings who were living separately used to come home and frequently quarrel over the share of the property.

The murder came to light when a neighbour went to the house to check on him and found Suresh lying dead in a pool of blood covered with a thick layer of chilli powder probably to hoodwink the dog squad and destroy evidence from the scene of crime, the cops suspect. The assailant may have entered the house through the backdoor. They later ransacked the house. – BMB

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I, NAMRATHA NAVEEN KUMAR, W/o Liju Thomas, R/o Flat no.61104, Nikoo Homes 1, Bhartiya City Apartments, No. 6/1 & 6/2 off Thanisandra, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name as NAMRATHA N vide affidavit dated 13/04/2022 sworn before notary J. Anand Kumar, Bengaluru.

I, NARAYANANAYAKA, R/o #06, Mathru Nilaya, 2nd Floor, Bhuvaneshwar nagar, 8th Main Road, 4th Cross, Dasarahalli Post, Bengaluru 560057 have changed my name as NARAYANA NAYAKA, vide affidavit dated 13/04/2022 sworn before notary J. Anand Kumar, Bengaluru.

I Varsha Suresh Singh D/O, Suresh Bahadur Singh R/o No.7/1, Sabapathy Lane, Kamraj Road Cross, Bangalore - 560001 have changed my name to Varsha Singh

I, Namitha P Lulla W/o Vivek Rao Residing at 6/1,Sri Nanjundeshwara Nilaya, 2nd cross, Anjaneya Block Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Namitha Rao Vide Affidavit Dated:12.4.2022 Sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bangalore

I Saad Burhan Anvar, S/o. Anvar Basha. M. R/a # 202, Arfa Citadel Apartments Bore Bank Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046. I have changed my name to SAAD BURHAN. Vide affidavit dtd: 12/04/2022. Sworn before Notary : Prakasha C.

I B M E Rahman Khan, S/o. Enayathulla Khan. R/a # 19/1, 2nd Cross, 8th Main 3rd Stage Pillanna Garden, Bengaluru-560045. I have changed my name to RAHMAN KHAN. Vide affidavit dtd: 06/04/2022. Sworn before Notary : Prakasha C.

I Dhyan Chakkerepura Yogeeshwara S/O, Yogeeshwara Chakkere Puttamadegowda R/o N0-143,17th Main Road, banashankari 2nd Stage, bengaluru-560070 have changed my name to Dhyan Chakkere Yogeeshwara

I, Shanmugasundaram Ramaswamy S/o Ramaswamy R/o 2nd Floor , Yashoda Building Kariyamma Badavane Banavara-573112 have changed my name to Swamy Krishnapuram Palaniammal Ramaswamy

I ,Gayathri Madhavan W/O Madhavan Kottakkal Covilagath, R/o Flat No 104,Building No 5,Mantri Residency,Bannerghatta Main Road,Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Gayathri Varma NK for all purposes.

I Julie P Jain R/o No 25/1 Bdg Lane Jolly Mohalla Blore 53 have changed my name to Julie G Jain vide affidavit dated 08.04.22 before notary @ s Jayanna blore

I Bhawna Bhutoria W/O, Ankit Nahata R/o A 402 Adarsh Palace Jayanagar 5th Block 47th Cross have changed my name to Bhawna Nahata for all purposes

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Don't let screen damage your skin

Radiations emitted from devices or sun can cause tissue to lose elasticity

Everything in the twenty-first century is easy-access; whether it's the next show tickets or a place to crash for a weekend getaway. However, with the ease of information comes something even scarier, radiation which we had no idea we were inadvertently ingesting. But somehow, we know that blue light can cause damage to our eyes and weaken our retinas, so imagine the amount of damage it can do to our skin. It can be really frightening!

We are surrounded by electronic devices such as mobile phones, computers, and laptops that emit radiation. But do we know what radiation is exactly and what kind of damage it does to the skin?

> **Antennas that are installed in our cellphone or laptop, as a form of connection, emit radiation that harms our skin with time**

The cell phone you're using right now, or the laptop you're reading this article from, all have one thing in common, antennas. The antennas are chipped in to make a connection with the signal tower. These antennas as a form of connection emit radiation that harms our skin with time.

We all know, as informative as the digital world can be but there are times when it can be overwhelming us with misleading information. Namrata Bajaj, co-founder of Tatsa - Skincare made Simple helps us deep dive into the harms of radiation to our skin and how to protect it.

Skin discolouration: All electronic devices have one thing in common, and that is the harmful radiation effect on the skin. Skin damage is a major phenomenon nowadays, radiation penetrating the skin causes itchiness, and dryness leading to skin discolouration by turning red or dark.

Premature ageing: Given our current lifestyle of being around electronic devices all the time, our skin cycle is heading in the wrong direction. Radiations emitted from devices or the sun create tanning beds on our skin. Overexposure to UV rays harms the inner layer of tissues by making them lose their elasticity. Hence radiation leads us to premature ageing and such side effects.

The breakouts: When our skin dislikes the environment around us, it showcases the same in different ways. Breakouts are one of the common problems noticed due to the environment. The skin loses its guards or becomes more sensitive, which eventually manifests itself in the form of breakouts.

Skin pigmentation: Considering all of the skin damage caused by radiation and blue lights, skin pigmentation is one of the worst and possibly the most irritating skin conditions one adopts via radiation. As much as we want to avoid it, there is no escape, skin pigmentation is a condition where skin adopts darkening spots around the area.

Skin sensitivity: As we age, skin sensitivity is one of the most significant factors that directly affect our skin and cause permanent damage to it, whether we get redness easily or dry skin all over it. Skin sensitivity weakens the strength of your skin, the more sensitive the skin, the less likely the skin is to fight against the harmful particles of the air. This is where the radiation enters the picture by weakening the skin to the point where it can no longer bear anything.

Dark circles: Imagine the entire face is flawless and the red bags around the eyes sit rent-free! If you ask us, it's time to act upon the skin damage. No amount of good skin can cover the weightage of the heavy dark circles.

The expert also suggests solution to protect our skin from radiation:

Allow your skin to absorb more than just radiation by getting out in the fresh air and allowing it to heal in nature.

There is nothing like drinking too much water; the more you drink, the more your skin will thank you. So, drink water and shield yourself from radiation with water.

Wash your face on a regular basis, and make sure your eyes are getting enough water so the harmful radiation is washed away with each splash. **–IANS**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Anchoring souls with compliments

Giving a genuine compliment is a tremendous way to increase your positivity! When you step out of your way to say something kind or provide meaningful appreciation to another person, it boosts their self-esteem and confidence.

The act of complimenting people generates a positive aura. It is a huge gift to tell someone that they have had a positive effect on your life or that you like the way they handled a crisis. You enhance your bond while reinforcing their worth in the world. When we hear the word "relationships", the first thing that strikes our mind is the bond we have with our beloved. They might be friends, siblings, partners, family members, and so on.

Gratitude is the simplest form of appreciation

In the intimate connections with your partner, appreciation is essential to sustain the bond. By expressing your gratitude in the form of a sincere compliment, you may brighten someone's day. Telling someone with a beaming smile that they have gorgeous eyes or that the color they are wearing matches them; can uplift their mood and enhance the joy. These may appear to be simple statements, but they make a significant impact in the long run!

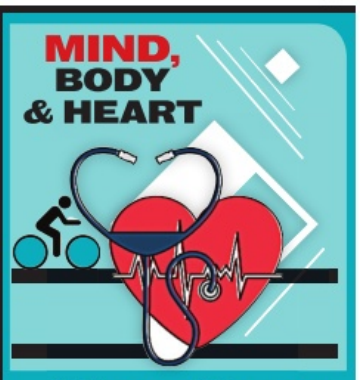
A human's basic need is to feel appreciated, and gratitude satisfies this need. In relationships, this compliment eventually leads to cooperation, collaboration,

and understanding. When there are problems arising in relationships, praises may be a lifesaver. Complimenting your partner makes them feel good and makes us see only the good in the world. They emit optimistic energy not only around us, but also in our relationships. Giving praises may be good for both the giver and the receiver.

Complimenting in romantic relationships is predominant

Appreciating your companion makes them feel confident about themselves, what they do, their choices, ideas, and so on. It also motivates them to feel stunning about themselves, urging them to become a better version or to be a better individual, as well as make efforts to improve their relationship. This simple gesture expresses your gratitude to your partner makes them feel valued. It further leads to improved relationship maintenance actions, which provide a reflection of responsiveness, involvement, and commitment to the relationship. This contributes to the growth, dedication, and durability of your relationship.

— Sybil Shiddel, Gleeden



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm struggling with the fact my ex-boyfriend has recently got engaged. I was the one who messed up our relationship by cheating with an old flame. We tried for a while to make it work, but my ex just couldn't get past it and it was causing lots of arguments, so we split up. Of course, I realised afterwards what a fool I'd been, as I still really loved him. Now that he's with someone else and getting married I feel lower than I've ever felt. I keep wishing I could wind back the clock and not have cheated on him. I keep thinking it should be me who's marrying him. I feel so stuck in the past and it's killing me. Any advice?

COLEEN SAYS

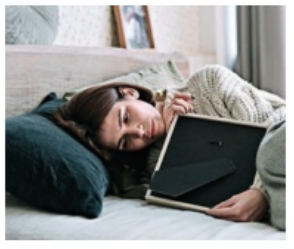
You're realising that he's moved on properly and there's no going back. And because it was you who messed up, it's natural to have regrets.

But, even before he met his fiancée, you couldn't have turned the clock back. You both tried, but he couldn't get past the affair.

The important thing is that you tried. You can't keep living in the past - that's all there is to it.

The best thing you can do is learn from it and the next time you're in a relationship and you're not feeling fulfilled, discuss how you're feeling with your partner rather than embarking on an affair. It's important to remember that something drove you to sleep with another man, so your relationship can't have been that great. It's a human trait to want what we can't have, but it's important to keep your focus on moving forward with your life.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



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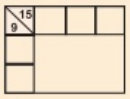
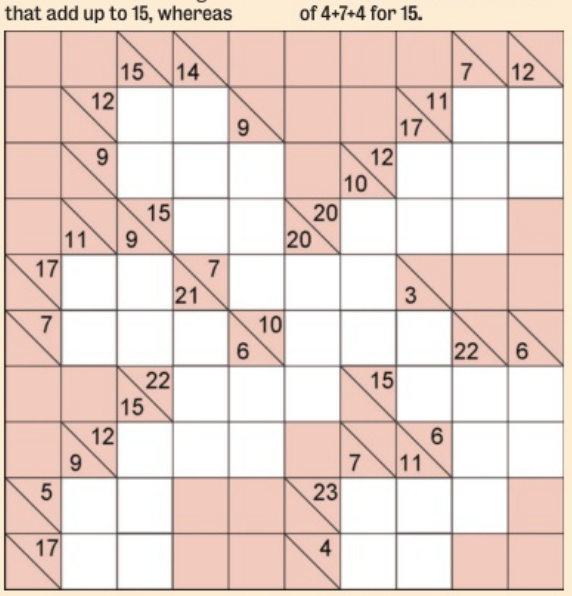
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

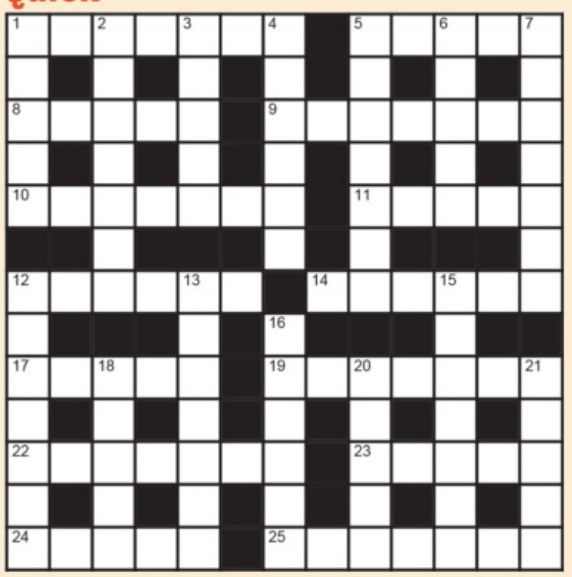


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Cast a shadow on (7)
5 Sponsorship (5)
8 Greek poet (5)
9 Funeral service (7)
10 Handbill (7)
11 Just right (5)
12 Armed forces (6)
14 Boat's bumper (6)
17 Important (5)
19 Invalidate (7)
22 Trade ban (7)
23 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
24 Pet name for Edward? (5)
25 In addition (7)

DOWN

1 Girl's name (5)
2 Back pain (7)
3 In _____of one's life : in the danger of losing one's life? (5)
4 Lists of mistakes (6)
5 Come by (7)
6 Ingrained dirt (5)
7 Easier (7)
12 Storm (7)
13 Describe in words (7)
15 Trained militarily (7)
16 Lay to rest (6)
18 Agreed with (5)
20 Bodies of water (5)
21 Fenced areas (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS U

XJ QHN BIULM, JH JIXWW QHN KPOHZP.

Linemaro

If your heart were a prison, I would like to be sentenced for life

Mindchow

10% of road accidents are due to drunken driving. Which means 90% of accidents are due to driving without drinking

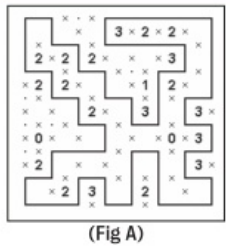
Joke of the day

Phone answering machine message: "If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..."

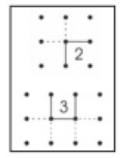
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

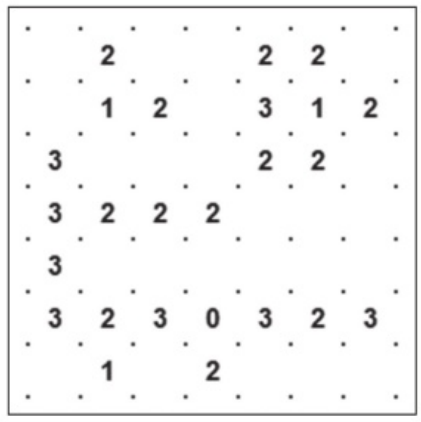


(Fig B) Not Allowed

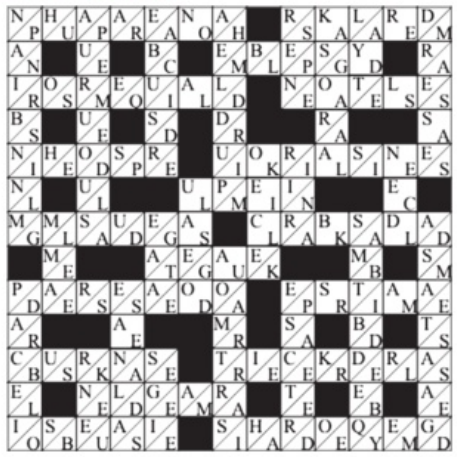
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



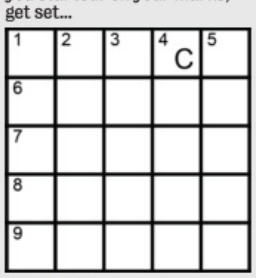
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

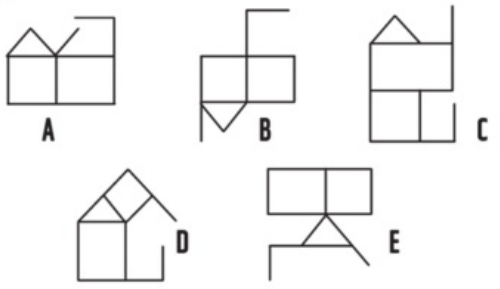
1 Calpe; 6 Ah pal; 7 Naans; 8 Inter; 9 Tacos

DOWN

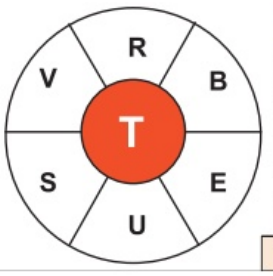
1 In Cap; 2 No all; 3 An ape; 4 Ratch; 5 Asset

Mensapuzzle

Which design is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

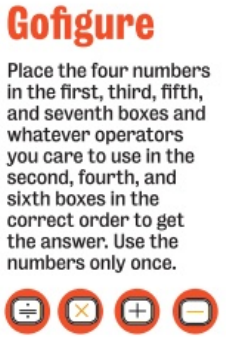
SudokuChallenge

5				6				1
	8		9		3		6	
		4	2		5	9		
8		5				7		4
	1						3	
9		3				2		6
		1	3		2	4		
	7		8		6		2	
2				9				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

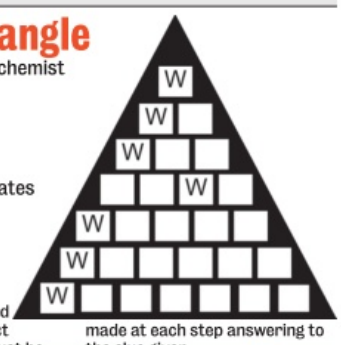
Differences: 1. Window is wider. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Pocket on golf bag is smaller. 4. Golf bag is shorter. 5. Hat is different. 6. House is not as wide.

Riddler

I make sound but have no mouth. I move but have no body. I am not hard nor soft. I can be deadly! What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Tungsten for the chemist
2 You and I
3 Cyst
4 Tidings
5 Diminishes
6 Stops sleeping
7 Enfeebles, debilitates



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

AS A YOUNG BRAVE, POKEY, YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO ENDURE HARDSHIPS!
...AND ABOVE ALL, YOU MUST SACRIFICE YOUR OWN COMFORTS
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET OUT OF MY WADING POOL?
1-29

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

And now, a word from the National Council on Narcissism:
ME
This has been a word from the National Council on Narcissism.
www.creators.com
2/9

Hart of the city

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... YOU GOT THREE, COUNT 'EM, THREE GOALS, HEART!
WHO'D EVER GUESS THAT YOU'D BE SO GOOD AT CRAB SOCCER?
I'VE GOT NEWS, IT GETS WEIRDER...
... I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT GYM CLASS!
OOO, YOU DRANK THE KOOL-AID...ER, I MEAN, THE GATORADE.
2-12

Crankshaft

SO WAS MR. MOORE ABLE TO HELP YOU MAKE SOME CUTS IN YOUR MANUSCRIPT?
YES.
BUT I DIDN'T SEND IT BACK TO THE PUBLISHER RIGHT AWAY... AND EACH DAY I WOULD ADD A LITTLE SOMETHING TO IT...
SO THE BOOK I JUST SENT OFF IS ACTUALLY A LITTLE LONGER THAN IT WAS THE FIRST TIME.
2-5

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may help the needy. It may increase your reputation in society. You might implement innovation in your work which may increase your business. Positive results may make you happy. Lovebirds may plan for an outing or some adventure tour.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be dissatisfied; you may have some sort of detachment for your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects; you are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also take care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migrating somewhere for a few days. You should also wait for a while before acting.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be enthusiastic; you may be more focused which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you to start a new project, which may give you profits in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job-seekers may hear good news in terms of a new job.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your financial health. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity to decorate your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you will be blessed by the moon which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress but your inner sense may be calm and cool, which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy every moment in work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may open which may help you to boost your savings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel dull today; you may face some chronic health issues. You are likely to be a victim of sleeplessness, which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. Your profits may convert into losses. You are advised to think twice before doing any type of financial transactions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel energetic. Your losses may convert to profits which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to take some difficult decisions in the business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to get incentives which may increase your savings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work; your wisdom may help you to take the right decision which may increase your business. You are likely to get a big order, which may expand your business. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may invest in some creative assets also.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the situation will be under control; you may be able to come out from the past days' messy situation. You may work with patience, which may reflect into your way of working. You may plan for an outing, and students may focus on their goals. Singles may find their love with the help of friends or relatives.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel unhappy. You may be impatient; you may be a victim of mood swings, which may reflect in your domestic life harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work, otherwise you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rash driving.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you, you may feel harmony in your personal life; you may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions; you may also take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at work. Your performance may be good in the job; you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to get a good job. Lovebirds may enjoy their quality time.

KIDZONE

Thryambak Vishwanath, 7 Years, The HDFC School

Poorvi N, 7 Years, Presidency School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\frac{3}{(6^2)} \times \%$
6×⅔
⅛%
9

RIDDLER
Wind

STRIKE OUT

P	H	A	R	A	O	H		S	A	L	E	M		
A		U		B		E	L	E	G	Y		A		
R	O	R	Q	U	A	L		N	O		E	L	S	
S		E		S		D			R			S		
I	H	O	P	E		U	K	R	A	I	N	E		
N		L		U	P	I	N			C				
G	L	A	D	E	S		C	A	B	A	L	A		
	E		T	E	A	R		B			M			
P	A	S	S	A	D	O		P	R	I	M	A		
A		E		R		A		D		S				
B	U	R	N	S		T	I	C	K	E	R	S		
L		E	D	E	M	A		E		B		E		
O	R	O	U	A	L		N	O		E	L	S		
A		U		E	L	E	G	Y		A				
R	H	A	R	A	O	H		S	A	L	E	M		

FAST FIVE

C	O	A	S	T
I	N	E	R	T
N	A	N	A	S
A	L	P	H	A
P	L	A	C	E

BULL'S EYE
best, brut, brute, burst, bust, buster, rebut, rest, rust, stub, SUBVERT, suet, true, tube, tuber, vest

QUICK

T	E	D	D	Y		B	E	S	I	D	E	S		
S		E		A		M		E		B		D		
E	M	B	A	R	G	O		K	O	L	A	R		
P		I		T		T		A		L		A		
M	A	J	O	R		N	U	L	L	I	F	Y		
E		O		E				R						
T	R	O	O	P	S		F	E	N	D	E	R		
	E		G		A				R					
L	E	A	F	L	E	T		I	D	E	A	L		
E		B		I		A		U		M		P		
H	O	M	E	R		R	E	O	U	I	E	M		
T	U		E		R		C		R		I			
E	C	L	I	P	S	E		A	E	G	I	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
B. Other than in B, the designs are made up with a square, a triangle, a rectangle, a right angle and a line. In B, there are two squares but no rectangle.

QUOTE UNCODE
As you think, so shall you become.

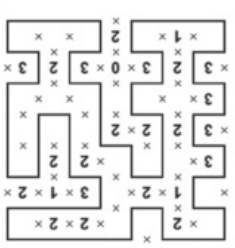
SUDOKU

2	3	8	4	9	1	6	7	5
4	7	9	8	5	6	1	2	3
6	5	1	3	7	2	4	9	8
9	4	3	1	8	7	2	5	6
7	1	6	5	2	4	8	3	9
8	2	5	6	3	9	7	1	4
3	6	4	2	1	5	9	8	7
1	8	7	9	4	3	5	6	2
5	9	2	7	6	8	3	4	1

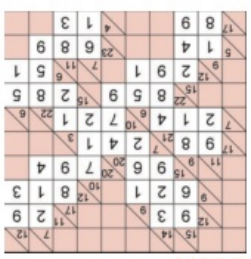
ALPHA TRIANGLE
W, We, Wen, News, Wanes, Wakens, Weakens.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 3 − 7 + 7 = 12
Medium
3 + 9 + 5 + 1 = 18
Hard
4 x 7 − 4 + 1 = 25

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Britney Spears expecting third child
Singer Britney Spears announced she is pregnant with her third child by posting a message on Instagram on Monday

BangaloreMirror | 12
Thursday, April 14, 2022
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Rakul's not the one to get intimidated

Actor says she was only excited about working with Big B, Ajay Devgn

Actor Rakul Preet Singh, who is gearing up for the release of the film 'Runway 34', has talked about working with two big screen legends -- Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn.

She says she was not intimidated on working with the two superstars instead she was excited to share the screen with them.

Talking about if she felt intimidated to work with Amitabh and Ajay in the frame, Rakul in a conversation with IANS said: "I am not someone who gets intimidated. I feel that if in the moment what you have worked for all your life you give into intimidation then you have lost the plot. "I am someone who gets excited. I get that happy energy that I'll be able to shoot with them and sharing screen space with Amitji... So, the tougher it is the more kick I get. The more challenging it is the more excited I get. So, I behave like that."

This is not the first time for Rakul to work with Ajay, who has also directed 'Runway 34'. She has previously shared screen space with him in 'De De Pyaar De' and will next be seen with him in 'Thank God'. "I think Ajay sir from Day 1 has been very approachable as a person. Very welcoming as a co-star. I remember meeting him for the first time on 'De De Pyaar De'... I was nervous at that point. He is Ajay Devgn."

"His first film had come out when I was born so it was like you have grown up watching sir and admired him for what he is as a person but he is very warm and he respects a fellow actor."

The film is reportedly inspired by the true events of the Jet Airways Doha to Kochi flight that had a narrow escape on August 2015, after facing difficulties to land at the Cochin International Airport due to bad weather and unclear visibility at 5:45 am. Was it tough shooting in a small space? "We shot in a real cockpit. We didn't make a set of it. We got a real simulator... The panel that you see or every button that you see is real. So whatever we were pressing was real... We got trained on it. It was tough to shoot in that confined space because Ajay Devgn (sir) had put seven cameras in that cockpit which is very small. That was a challenge for him also."

The actor talked about her character Captain Tanya. She says that even though it was a tough film and role, it was not very difficult to get out of the intensity of it. "I am as a person in general someone who detaches as soon as I have done shooting So, I as an actor like to do things after pack-up that make me feel normal. The girl that Rakul is." **–IANS**

'Puneeth was a true genius'

The last film of late superstar Puneet Rajkumar, James, will be streaming on OTT from April 14.

The film will be shown on SonyLIV. Ashish Golwalkar – Head Content, SonyLIV said, "It is an honour to be associated with 'James', which not only has gripping performances but is also a testament to the outstanding and multifaceted journey of Puneeth Rajkumar on celluloid. "He was a true genius, and we are proud to be able to bring his last feature film to his fans everywhere and help them connect with their beloved superstar. It will also boost our regional library, adding to our aim of bringing quality content that resonates with people from all parts of the country."

The film is helmed and written by Chethan Kumar and produced by Kishore Pathikonda, starring Priya Anand opposite Puneeth.

Chethan said, "Directing Puneeth is a dream that only the fortunate can turn into a reality. I consider myself extremely privileged to have gotten this opportunity," **– IANS**

Mehndi ceremony done right

With the mehndi ceremony done, the Kapoors and Bhatts are now gearing up for the D-Day tomorrow as Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt take the plunge in the presence of family and close friends. The wedding will be according to the Punjabi traditions and ETimes has learnt that the groom's family will take a baraat procession to the bride's place.

Neetu Kapoor, Riddhima Sahni with husband and daughter, Rima Jain, Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Karan Johar, Mahesh Bhatt, Pooja Bhatt, Rahul Bhatt and few other guests were seen arriving for the mehndi on Wednesday. Reportedly, Karan Johar, who is a mentor and a father figure for Alia, got emotional ahead of the mehndi ceremony.

The wedding too will be an intimate ceremony with close friends and family in attendance. Security has been beefed up and the personnel requested the cops to intervene to avoid any accidents that could mar the occasion. **—ETimes**

Sam gushes over 'legendary' Rihanna cover shoot

Superstar Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who often takes fans by surprise with her travel diaries, choice of work, fashion, and photoshoots, is all praises for Rihanna's latest cover shoot for a popular American magazine.

Samantha took to her Instagram handle to share Rihanna's cover shoot and called it "legendary".

Rihanna took maternity style to the next level with the latest cover shoot wherein she looks bold and beautiful in the fashion-forward maternity looks. In one of the pics, Rihanna slays a red, floral bodysuit while another picture shows the mom-to-be posing in a bathtub flaunting her baby bump floating above the water. The picture with Rihanna donning a glamorous white gown is unmissable.

For the unversed, Rihanna announced pregnancy with partner A$AP Rocky in January, and ever since, she is setting some major maternity goals. **—ETimes**